

HB 760—Clean Elections Act

HB 760 is an alternative method of funding legislative campaigns that allows a candidate who voluntarily participates in a "clean election" to qualify for public funding rather than accepting private donations or using personal funds.

A candidate may spend up to \$2,500 in the exploratory and qualifying period (not more than \$500 in personal funds). Senate races would be \$4,500 (same limit on personal funds).

The candidate must collect one hundred \$5.00 (or suggested \$20) donations from registered voters in the district. This money goes to the Clean Elections Account, not to the candidate. Two hundred donations would be necessary in Senate campaigns.

In the candidate "qualifies" the candidate receives a \$3,000 grant from the Clean Elections Account. \$4,000 if it's a contested primary. Senate candidates would receive \$5,000 and the additional \$1,000 for a contested primary.

Qualified candidates receive a \$3,000 grant for the general election campaign. Senate candidates receive a grant of \$5,000.

Qualified candidates opposing NON-qualified candidates may receive additional equal funding grants based on the NON-qualified candidates expenditures and independent expenditures.

The bill requests an appropriation of \$500,000 in each of the next two years into the Clean Elections Account.

The bill provides for an income tax check-off for the Clean Elections Account.

There will be administrative costs for the Commissioner of Political Practices office.